

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-10 and 12-19 are allowed. Claim 1 stands rejected. Claim 11 is objected to because of an informality but would be allowable if corrected. Claims 11, 12, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

I. Amended Claims

Claim 11 stands rejected because of an informality but would be allowable if corrected. In particular, the Examiner stated that “[i]t appears that ‘or more’ should be changed to --one or more—in line 1.” Office Action dated October 19, 2004 at page 2. Pursuant to the Examiner’s remarks, Applicant has corrected this informality by reciting “one or more” in the place of “or more” in Claim 11.

Applicant has also made a similar correction to Claim 17. In addition, Claims 12 and 19 have been amended to correct for typographical errors. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by the proposed amendments and respectfully requests entry thereof.

II. Formal Drawings

Figure 4 stands objected to because it is an informal drawing not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d). Applicant has amended Figure 4, replacing the informal drawing with a formal drawing. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by the proposed amendment and respectfully requests entry thereof.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,043,061 to Jitsuo Inagaki ("Inagaki"). In particular, the Examiner contends that Inagaki teaches an inlet (16), said inlet adapted to allow fluid flow therethrough, an outlet (40), said outlet adapted to allow fluid flow therethrough, one or more structural elements (11) connecting said inlet to said outlet, and one or more filtration elements (23) connected to said one or more structural elements." See Office Action dated October 19, 2004 at page 2.

In addition, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,783,266 to Titch *et al.* ("Titch"). The Examiner contends that Titch teaches an inlet (22), said inlet adapted to allow fluid flow therethrough, an outlet (24), said outlet adapted to allow fluid flow therethrough, one or more structural elements (Fig. 3) connecting said inlet to said outlet, and one or more filtration elements (30) connected to said one or more structural elements.

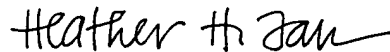
Applicant respectfully submits that neither Inagaki nor Titch anticipates independent claim 1. In a sincere effort to place the claims in a condition of allowance, however, Applicant has canceled claim 1. Accordingly, the rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in proper form and condition for allowance. It is believed that no other fee is due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this document, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing Docket No. 11533.0026.NPUS02. The Examiner is hereby respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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AMENDMENTS

In the Drawings

A proposed corrected drawing are presented with this paper. The amended drawing of figure 4 is objected to because it is an informal drawing. A formal drawing of Figure 4 is therefore being submitted.